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THE GENESEE FARMER.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1836.

Reward for Labor.

The Europeans, whether travelers or writers, in speaking of us as a nation, appear to agree in one thing, and that is, of attributing to us such a peculiar temperament, that when we get hold of a thing, or engage in any project, we always carry it too far; thus not unfrequently rendering what might be a real good, a positive evil. To this charge we must in part plead guilty. We *are* a go-ahead people, and whether the object of pursuit be religion or politics, banks or canals, rail-roads or western lands, it is rarely followed with any degree of moderation, but must be fairly overdone and run under, ere the public can be satisfied. In America we are the architects of our own fortune; and we not unfrequently acquire an estate, and perhaps lose it too, while one of the sober staid citizens of the old world would be rubbing open his eyes preparatory to making a move on the great chess-board of life.

Luckily we now and then hit upon something which there is no danger of over doing, and these things are mostly connected with those fundamental wants, the food and clothing of mankind. Men must eat and drink as formerly, spite of rail-roads and steam engines; the inner man must be attended to, even while the outer one is moving at the rate of a mile a minute; hence rounds of beef, and saddles of mutton, and Virginia hams, with the et ceteras of potatoes, onions, turneps, and wheaten bread or hoe-cake, will continue, for a considerable time at least, to be in demand. There is no danger then that the agriculturist will go too far ahead.

Men and women too have an invincible antipathy in these days to living in a state of nudity; this repugnance too must be the result of unconquerable innate modesty, or, in obedience to the dictates of fashion, our fair country women would long before this been as naked as the beauties of a Krooman's tent, and as careless of their hitherto concealed charms, as the matchless Susannah bathing before the audience of a Parisian opera house. This antipathy to a state of nudity speaks well, from whatever cause it may spring, to the interests of the wool grower, and the silk manufacturer. There is indeed little probability that these thriving interests will be pushed beyond the limits of prudence or profit.

It is only where the population is dense and labor cheap, that manufactures in general can be made profitable, and the production of the raw material is in such cases the proper business of the agriculturist, or producer. This is always the case where the labor is of the kind that requires the strength and endurance of men for its performance; but there are some kinds of manufacture which can be made profitable in countries where labor is high, as it can be carried on by women and children, by the infirm, and those unable to labor elsewhere, or where machinery can be substituted for men. The culture of silk answers all these indications, and it is a matter of cangratulation, that the enterprising spirit of our New England brethren has hit upon a subject that cannot be overdone, is adapted to their population, and will be of immense profit. Employing but a small part of the year, by the females it may be considered as healthful exercise to superintend a cocoonery, and the children will not be deprived of that time and opportunity of obtaining an education which forms the glory and safeguard of that section of our country. It needs but little acquaintance with such matters to understand that the child who spends three or four weeks each summer in the open air, and in the light exercise of the silk business, will at the end of the year be in all probability as far advanced as he who has spent the same time with his books in a heated school-room, with the important advantage of a more elastic spirit and firmer constitution. Men and women must be clothed, and silk forms one of the most durable materials nature has provided; and when produced in our families and by ourselves, the proverb of Franklin, that "silks and satins put out the kitchen fire," will cease to be applicable among us.

There can be little doubt from present indications, that agriculture is in some respects about to undergo some important modifications, and labor receive a new direction in many parts of the country. The two items of silk and sugar, which are unquostionably within the intelligence, enterprise and resource of the northern states, are sufficient, when taken in all their bearings, to effect nearly a total revolution in our agriculture, and greatly interest our commerce. Unlike most revolutions, they must be introduced gradually; labor which was unproductive elsewhere will here find its reward; and capital, which has hitherto flowed abroad, will remain at home to invigorate and strengthen older manufactures, and bring into existence new and active ones. The great mass of the community are not ashamed to dig; they only require the probability of success and the certainty of a decent compensation to stimulate their exertions. G.

Valuable Property of the Locust.

It has long been known that for ordinary purposes, and in the most exposed situations, the wood of the locust tree was more durable, and of course valuable, than any other, where strength and durability were the main requisites. Experience has shown that it possesses another invaluable quality, that of resisting the "dry rot," or fungus, which is so destructive to some other kinds of wood, particularly the oak. The place where it has been thoroughly tested is in the mines of France, where substitution of it for oak commenced in 1830. Before this oak had been generally used, and sticks of from 8 to 10 inches in diameter seldom lasted longer than a year or a year and a half. According to M. Francois, director of the mines, under the influence of the subterranean heat and moisture which proves so fatal to the oak, a yellowish viscous substance is formed on the locust, which protects the alburnum or sap wood from the influence of the surrounding air. This covering affords a protection to the wood for several months, by which time the alburnum is gradually converted into a porous ligneous substance, to which the ulterior preservation of the wood is probably owing, the interior or heart-wood retaining, to an indefinite period, the healthy soundness and firm texture it first possessed. The saving in expense is found very great, and the feeling of security much increased, since the decay of the timbers that supported the roof exposed the miners to continual dangers from its falling. The loss to the English navy from dry rot alone amounts to millions annually. Ships of the line have been built and launched, and have rotted at the docks without ever going to sea. Owing to the substitution of live oak for common oak in a great measure, our navy has hitherto suffered much less than European ones, —but we have not been exempt, and the known superiority of the locust should ensure its adoption wherever it can be procured in the national and commercial marine, both on the sea board and on the lakes. G.

Agricultural Reading.

The advice of the justly celebrated Bakewell, a man who did more perhaps to advance the interests of the agriculturist, and render him prosperous, than any man of the age, to those young friends who as farmers called upon him, was, to "spare no pains to know what others were doing." This could only be done through the medium of agricultural journals, and hence he was, as may well be supposed, one of their ablest advocates, as well as a constant contributor to their pages. Experience has shown, that to be a successful farmer at the present day—to enter the vast field of agricultural competition on equal terms—a man must know what others are doing; he must be acquainted with the improvements in husbandry, in labor saving machines, in the preparation and application of manures, and with the new and improved breeds of cattle and sheep that have within a few years been introduced.

To possess this knowledge is one thing—to make a judicious use of it is quite another. The first he must acquire from extensive personal observation, or from agricultural works; the last must be the result of reflection, combined with experience. Without the first he will be behind the age; without the last he will be a farmer at

random, a mere visionary in theory, incompetent to his business, and a loser in practice. Judgment, sound judgment, is required to render available knowledge, and where these two are combined, the result will be a successful farmer.

Many of the best farmers at the present time, we mean those who make the best use of their capital and realize the greatest profits, are men who entered into competition with long established agriculturists utterly ignorant, so far as personal superintendence or labor was concerned, with the business of farming. They were professional men, divines, lawyers, merchants, or mechanics; unacquainted with the mechanical part of their new occupation, but bringing to the work minds well stored with varied and useful knowledge, and a thorough acquaintance with the advanced state and best methods of modern agriculture. The voluntary choice of such men proves that they have a taste for one of the noblest occupations of mankind, and entering upon it with zeal, they meet with a success to which many of those who have been brought up to farming from their infancy remain strangers.

It is sometimes said by those who decry agricultural reading, or book farming, as they are pleased to term it, that you cannot *make* a farmer, he must be brought up to it, or he cannot succeed. The celebrated Marshall of England thought differently; he maintained that "attendance and attention will make any man a farmer." He was brought up a merchant, but at mature age, took a poor farm of three hundred acres in the vicinity of London, and commenced farmer. All his friends prophecied a total failure, but he prepared himself by studying the best agricultural works of the day, and by reflection—superintended his business himself—kept an accurate journal of his operations, which he afterwards published—and became very rich, the Coke or Bakewell of the farmers of his day. The same thing has happened, and is almost daily happening in this state. Professional men and mechanics have become our most able and successful farmers—showing the best regulated and well managed farms—exhibiting the finest cattle, sheep and hogs—giving a flat contradiction to the doctrine, that books will not make good farmers; and what, in the estimation of many, will be more than all the rest, as furnishing the test and proof of the whole, putting more money in their pockets than any of those who have been regularly bred to the business.

The time has come when the farmer in self-defence must read; not to become a mere theorist or visionary in agriculture; not to keep constantly changing his systems, but steadily improving them; but because to ensure success, and keep pace with others, he must know what others are doing. G.

Valuable Properties of Calcareous Sand.

A curious example of a general practice of adding mineral matter to a soil, without the smallest conception, on the part of those who do so, of what they add, is to be found in the north-western portions of Devonshire. The rock of the district is graywacke, composed of compact acenaceous beds mixed with slate, in the greater part of which there is no carbonate of lime, while silicia and alumina are abundant. The district generally is far from fertile, and makes little return to the farmer. Now it is the general practice in that country to bring sand from the sea-coast, often many miles distant, to mix with the soil, by which the productiveness of the latter is increased. It is also the general belief, that the sand benefits the soil by loosening it, though the farmers are aware that the same quantity of other kinds of sand, which may also be obtained on the coast, will not produce the same good effects. The fact is, that the sand brought chiefly, and almost entirely, consists of carbonate of lime, being the trituary fragments of sea-shells, thrown on shore by the breakers; and thus the farmers add, without being aware of it, a mineral substance to the land in which it was deficient, and which it required to render it somewhat fertile.—*Geology applied to Agriculture.*

From the Farmers' Magazine of 1812.

On the Difference in the Effect of Dung upon different soils—and upon the same land before and after it has been limed.

[The following communication is from the aged and venerale farmer who has been sometimes honored, and not undeservedly, by the name of the "Father of Scottish Husbandry"—and it deserves attention, not only for the truth and value of the opinions it conveys, but for the novelty and rareness of their appearance. So far as we know, this is the only instance, before the first publication of the *Essay on Calcareous Manures*, (and this was not known until after that publication,) of its being maintained by any book, or writer, that natural poor soils cannot be profitably and durably enriched by dung alone, until after they have been limed. The deductions from Mr. Dawson's statements accord entirely with the opinions maintained in the work referred to, as to the effects of manure on poor soils.] —*Farmer's Register.*

That dung produces much greater effect upon good than upon bad land, when in tillage, is generally known, though not so fully attended to as it ought to be; but the difference in its effects upon different kinds of land, when in grass, though much more considerable, has been very little observed; notwithstanding it is obvious that the dung of animals has a great effect upon all pastures which consist of what are called the finer grasses; that it has scarcely any upon land that is covered with bent-grass, or fog; and that it is of more or less value upon pastures, as herbage of the former or latter description predominates.

As accidental circumstances directed my attention more particularly to these consequences, it may be of use to publish an account of them in your Magazine, so far as they have been ascertained by my own experience; since it may induce some of your readers to communicate other facts and observations illustrative of this important subject.

In the year 1754, having occasion to carry a quantity of very fine black loam from a head-ridge of old infield land, to give the surface water a free passage, it was laid upon outfield benty grass land adjoining, of which it covered about a quarter of an acre fully one inch thick. No grass seeds were sown upon this new covering; yet white clover, and other fine grasses sprung up and gradually increased upon it; and the bent, upon which the loam was laid, diminished so speedily, that very little of it remained in the third year thereafter.

A few years after this, having a considerable extent of outfield land in fallow, which I wished to lime previous to its being laid down to pasture, and finding that I could not obtain a sufficient quantity of lime for the whole in proper time, I was induced, from observing the effects of the fine loam upon the surface of similar soil, even when covered with bent, to try a small quantity of lime on the surface of a part of this fallow, instead of a larger quantity ploughed down in the usual manner. Accordingly, in the autumn, about twenty acres of it was well harrowed, and then about fourteen Winchester bushels only of unslacked lime was, after being slacked, carefully spread upon each English acre, and immediately well harrowed in. As many pieces of the lime, which had not been fully slacked at first, were gradually reduced to powder by the dews and moisture of the earth—to mix that with the soil, the land was again well harrowed, in three or four days therafter. This land was sown in the spring with oats, with white and red clover and rye grass seeds, and well harrowed without being ploughed again. The crop of oats was good; the plants of grass sufficiently numerous and healthy; and they formed a very fine pasture which contined good until ploughed, and years after, for corn.

About twelve years afterwards, I took a lease of the hilly farm of Grubbet; many parts of which, though of an earthy mold tolerably deep, were too steep and elevated to be kept in tillage. As these had been much exhausthd by cropping, and were full of couch-grass, to destroy that, and procure a cover of fine grass, I fallowed them, and layed on the same quantity of lime per acre, —then harrowed, and sowed oats and grass seed in the spring; exactly as in the last mentioned experiment. The oats were a full crop, and the plants of grass abundant. Several of these fields have been now above thirty years in pasture, and are still producing white clover and other fine grasses; no bent or fog has yet appeared upon them. It deserves particular notice, that more than *treble* the quantity of lime was laid upon fields adjoining of a similar soil, but which, being fitter for occasional tillage, upon them the lime was ploughed in. These fields were also sown with oats and grass seeds. The latter throve well, and gave a fine pasture the first year; but afterwards, the bent spread so fast, that, in three years, there was more of it than of the finer grasses.

In all these instances, where the lime was only harrowed in, and not ploughed down, the land not only continued to produce the finer grasses, but the dung of the animals feeding upon them had the same effect in increasing the quantity and verdure of the grass, as it has upon rich, loamy, infield soils; of this, the parts of Grubbet hills, above alludded to, afford a full proof at this day. Whereas, wherever the lime was ploughed down, the parts of the soil at the surface, which were not sufficiently mixed with lime, though sown with clovers, became gradually covered with bent; and dung of animals had little or no effect upon such benty parts. That animal dung has little or no beneficial effect upon such pastures, is obvious from this circumstance, that, in all hilly countries, there are great tracts of benty grass land, which have continued for centuries, though constantly pastured with sheep or cattle, without any visible improvement; the animal dung neither increasing the quantity, nor improving the quality of the pasture. But it is still more remarkable, that dung has no permanent effect upon such soils, even when ploughed down, as appears from the following facts.

In the year 1756, about five acres of earthy outfield benty land were folded with sod-dikes, and very well dunged, with the intention of ploughing it for oats; but upon determining afterwards to enclose about sixty acres to be contained in pasture, of whicy those five acres made a part, the intention of ploughing these folds was given up; and the dikes were thrown down in the spring, well harrowed and sown with rye grass. The effect of the dung upon that land was very considerable the first year, a great deal less so the second, very little the third, and was not visible afterward. Seven years thereafter, it was ploughed with oats along with the rest of the field, when the effects of the dung were expected to be considerable; but the crop was no better upon the folded part, than upon the others, nor was it any better upon the sides of the sod-dikes, where the dung had been at first fully covered in by the earth of the sods.

Some years afterwards, about ten acres of benty outfield was fallowed, and intended to be limed; but, for particular reasons, no part of it was limed. One half of it, however, was dunged from the farm-yard. The whole field was sown with oats and rye grass seeds. The crop of oats was much better upon the part that was dunged,

as was also the rye grass, the first year; but the bent spread so fast upon both parts, that no rye grass was left the fourth year, nor was there any greater verdure upon the part that was dunged than upon the other part. When the whole field was ploughed some years after, there was no visible difference in the crops between the two parts: the crop upon both was very bad.

But from the following facts it appears, that upon that sort of soil, when properly mixed with lime, the effects of dung are not only greater, but much more permanent, whether under tillage or pasture. After laying at least fifty bushels of unslacked lime upon each English acre of the dry benty land of the farm of Frogden, I cropped it in what was then called the Norfolk rotaton, viz: 1st year, Turnep; 2d, Barley or Oats; 3d, Grass; and 4th, Oats or Wheat. It was expected that this mode of cropping would not exhaust the land; but I found, even in the second round, that the crops were so very much worse on the thin soils, that it was necessary to allow the land to continue some years in pasture to recover its fertility; and for that purpose it was sown with eqal quanties of red, white, and yellow clovers, with a small portion of rye grass seeds. As the land had been twice fallowed, and carried three crops of turneps horse-hoed after liming, and had never been ploughed deep, the surface soil was well mixed with lime; and accordingly, the clover was not afterwards injured by the native bent. But as the land had been exhausted by cropping, sheep were folded upon it in nets the first summer. Their dung greatly increased the quantity and richness of the pasture; and though the effect was less the next year, it continued to be considerable, and the pasture seemed still improving after the third year. After being six years in grass, the land was ploughed up, and produced full crops. As the soil of the fields treated in this manner was in every respect similar to that of the five acres which were folded in 1756, and to the soil of the field of ten acres, half of which was dunged from the farm yard, as already mentioned, the very great superiority in the permanency of the effects of dung in the latter instance, over that in the two former, can only be imputed to the lime.

From the preceding statement, the following conclusions deserve the attention of agriculturists.

1st. That animal dung dropped upon coarse, benty pastures, produces little or no improvement upon them; and that, even when sheep or cattle are confined to a small space, as in the case of folding, their dung ceases to produce any beneficial effect, after a few years, whether the land is continued in pasture, or brought under the plough.

2d. That even when land of this description is well fallowed and dunged, but not limed, though the dung augments the produce of the subsequent crop of grain, and of grass also for two or three years, that thereafter, its effects are no longer discernible either upon the one or the other.

3d. That when this land is limed, if the lime is kept upon the surface of the soil, or well mixed with it, and then laid down to pasture, the finer grasses continue in possession of the soil, even in elevated and exposed situations, for a great many years, to the exclusion of bent and fog. In the case of Grubbet hills, it was observed, that more than thirty years have now elapsed. Besides this, the dung of the animals pastured upon such land, adds every year to the luxuriance, and improves the quality of the pasture, and augments the productive powers of the soil when afterwards ploughed for grain;—thus producing, upon a benty outfield soil, effects similar to what are experienced when rich infield lands have been long in pasture, and which are thereby more and more enriched.

4th. That when a large quantity of lime is laid on such land, and ploughed down deep, the same effects will not be produced, whether in respect to the permanent fineness of the pasture, its gradual amelioration by the dung of the animals deposited on it, or its fertility when afterwards in tillage. On the contrary, unless the surface is fully mixed with lime, the coarse grasses will, in a few years, regain possession of the soil, and the dung thereafter deposited by cattle will not enrich the land for subsequent tillage.

Lastly, It also appears from what has been stated, that the four-shift husbandry is only proper for very rich land, or in situations where there is a full command of dung: That by far the greatest part of the land of this country, requires to be contined in grass two, three, four, or more years, according to its natural poverty: That the objection made to this, viz: that the coarse grasses in a few years usurp possession of the soil, must be owing to the surface soil not being sufficiently mixed with lime, the lime having been covered too deep by the plough.

There are other manures besides lime, which to a certain degree, produce similar effects, upon which some observations may be offered at a future opportunity. I am, sir, yours, &c.

WILLIAM DAWSON.

Edinburgh. March 2, 1812.

A Valuable Book on Cattle.

We have been presented by the publishers, Grigg and Elliot, of Philadelphia, with a very useful and excellent work, entitled "Cattle; their Breeds, Management, and Diseases; with an Index. Published under the superintendence of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge."

Of the utility of a good work of this kind there can be but one opinion among intelligent and reflecting persons. "No man will deny the importance of the animal, whose milk affords butter, cheese, and various combinations for his table; whose hide gives leather for machinery, harness, shoes, &c.; whose hair supports the plaster upon his walls; whose horn and bone are converted into medicines, and articles constantly in his use; whose tallow and fat are consumed in candles and soap, necessary to his comfort and health; whose heels afford oil, valuable in many of his pursuits; whose stomach even constitutes an agreeable repast; whose tail is converted into a couch for his indulgence or repose; and whose patient offspring, after having enabled him to reap the harvest of his fields, yields the most wholesome and nutritious food for his frame, and finally, by his offal, enriches the soil."

From a cursory perusal of this volume, (we have not yet had time to give it that attention it deserves,) we have formed a high opinion of its merits. It gives us the natural history of the ox, the different breeds of British cattle, such as "Polled Cattle, Irish Cattle, Long Horn, Short Horn, Foreign cattle, including the Alderny, Najore cattle, Buffalo and Indian cattle, structure and diseases of different parts of the ox; Breeding, Parturition, the diseases and management of calves," &c. and "a list of the medicine used in the treatment of the diseases of cattle." A few extracts from this very voluable book, will give our readers some means of forming a correct estimate of the whole treatise.

In the introduction it is remarked, "If an ox is not individually so valuable as a horse, yet in the aggregate cattle constitute a much greater proportion of the wealth of the country; for although Great Britain contains a million and a half of horses, she has to boast of more than eight millions of cattle unrivaled in the world."

The author gives the items of a calculation, by which he computes that the actual value of cattle, sheep and swine in Great Britain is nearly one hundred and twenty millions sterling, and continues, "Although much has been done by agricultural societies to improve the breed and the general treatment of these animals, and much valuable instruction is to be found scattered in many a volume, no one has yet attempted to collect these fragments of 'useful knowledge,' and to add to them his own experience; and in one very important part of our subject there has been the most unaccountable neglect, for there is scarcely in the English language a work on the preservation of health, and the prevention and cure of the diseases of cattle and sheep, on which any dependence can be placed. Although a tenth part of the sheep and lambs die annually of disease, (more than four millions perished of the rot alone, in the winter of 1829–30,) and at least a fifteenth part of the neat cattle are destroyed by inflammatory fever and milk fever, red water, hoose, and diarhœa; and the country incurs a loss annually of nearly ten millions of pounds annually, the agriculturist knows not where to go for information on the nature and the cure of the maladies of which they die; and is either driven to confide in the boasted skill of the pretender, or make up his mind that it is in vain to struggle against the evils which he cannot arrest, and lets matters take their course."

"The parent race of the ox is said to have been much larger than any of the present varieties. The Urus in his wild state at least, was an enormous and fierce animal, and ancient legends have thrown around him an air of mystery. In almost every part of the continent, and in every district in England, skulls, evidently belonging to cattle, have been found, far exceeding in bulk any now known. There is a fine specimen in the British Museum; the peculiarity of the horns will be observed, resembling smaller ones, dug up in the mines of Cornwall, preserved in the wild cattle of Chillingham Park, and not quite lost in our native breeds of Devon and East Sussex, and those of the Welsh mountains and Highlands. The combat of Guy, Earl of With, with the dun cow, the skull of which is yet preserved in the cattle of Warwick, will sufficiently prove the compartively large size of some of the wild cattle of that day. We have reason to believe, however, that this referred more to individuals than to the character of the breed generally, for there is no doubt that, within the last century, the size of cattle has progressively increased in England, and kept pace with the improvement in agriculture."

This work will be found amusing as well as useful, and in our opinion ought to be found in every farmer's library.—*N. E. Farmer.*

Seed Corn.

MR. HOLMES—Much is said and written of late on the choice of seed corn—some preferring eight, some ten, and some twelve rowed—some a large and some a small cob. When I select my seed corn, I attend but little to the number of rows, or the size of the cob, but to what the cob contains.

When we peel the trees of the forest where the bark is the principal object, we choose the largest trees because the bark is the thickest, the trees longest, and still if small trees have as thick a bark as large ones, it is very evident that we obtain more bark in proportion to the bulk of timber, than we should from large trees. So with corn—the bark or coating being the sole object, it behoves us to obtain those ears that are best coated. When I select my seed corn, whether taken from the field or the heap, I take the largest, ripest, and best filled to appearance—but when I come to shelling, which I always do by hand, it is subject to a more minute selection. When I have shelled about one-fourth part from the top end of the ear, which part I always exclude from my seed, I can judge whether it is well coated or not, or whether the kernels are deep and of good length and well set, and if I find the coating thin or shallow, I at once exclude it without any regard to the number of rows or size of the cob.—*Maine Far.*

How to make a double crop on poor soil.—Plough up your ground intended for corn in the fall of the year, as you can plough it—let it lay till spring—at the opening of which, when the frost is entirely out of the ground, give it a good ploughing and harrow it down. It is then in good order for preparing to plant. Take of slaked ashes, two thirds, and of ground plaster one third; mix them well together, and follow the droppers, and put as much of this mixture on the seeds as you can grasp in your hand, and cover it well over in the usual way. The corn will grow off finely, and retain a strong vigorous growth and green color, and stand the drouth much better than upon the strongest culture. The writer of this having tried the experiment for two years has fully tested its value.

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Dairy—Churning the Milk.

BY W. G.

In prosecuting the bussiness of the dairy in the United States, if we except the immediate vicinity of some of the principal cities, more attention has been paid to the cheese making department, than to the manufacture of butter. Circumstances, however, of which the principal are the greater demand arising from the increase of a mechanical and manufacturing population, and the additional facilities for transportation, appear to indicate that making butter is destined for the future to occupy more of the attention and capital of the successful dairyman.

That the present high prices can be maintained for coming years is not at all probable, but there is every reason to believe, that butter will always command such a price as shall afford a handsome remuneration to the producer; certainly, when conducted on principles that will give the greatest quantity and best quality of the article, from a given quantity of milk. There are large quantities of butter and cheese offered for sale in our markets, but an examination of their kinds will show that little skill or care has been used in the production of far the greater part. Now and then specimens are offered equal to any in the world, but there is far from being that uniformity of excellence so creditable to the maker, and so desirable to the purchaser. Even where butter or cheese is alone attended to, this defect is generally obvious, and always more or less so where the milk for part of the year is appropriated to cheese, and the remainder to butter. That the best quality of either article will be produced where undivided care is given, it requires but little acquaintance with the dairy business to show.

Where the making of butter is the great object of the dairyman, it is necessary to understand *working the whole of the milk*, as in that way alone can the greatest quantity and best quality of butter be combined. The whole of the milk must be churned, or the whole of the butter will not be obtained. This process we have reason to believe is very imperfectly understood, and the object of this paper is, to lay before the readers of the Farmer, such practical information as may be necessary to the successful prosecution of the business. To be able to do this effectually, we sometime ago transmitted a series of queries connnected with the making of butter from the milk, to several who were engaged in the business, particularly to J. B. Gilbert, Esq. of Otsego county, whose success is undoubted, and the productions of whose dairy are considered first rate in any market. These queries were kindly responded to, and the substance of Mr. Gilbert's paper we have embodied in connection with the questions submitted, with occasional notes.

Ques. 1st. In making butter from the milk, what churn do you use, and do you churn by hand, or by machinery?

We use a dash churn of the size of a barrel, worked by machinery, the propelling power of which is a dog. We find this does the the business promptly and effectually, it being desirable that the motion should be equal and sustained. Water, where convenient, might be used with success, for turning the machinery.

Ques. 2d. Do you churn the milk new from the cows, or is it necessary it should be soured before the operation?

To produce the best butter, and the greatest quantity, it is indispensably necessary that the milk should be soured. This is generally accomplished in warm weather without difficulty; but in cool weather in the spring and fall, milk will stand so long before the cream rises, or the milk will sour, that the surface will become moldy, the cream acquire a bitter and unpleasant taste, and the fine rich flavor of the butter of course be destroyed. To obviate this difficulty, we are in the habit at such times of setting our milk in pans which contain a small quantity of sour milk, a practice which greatly hastens the acidifying process. In extreme warm weather, milk will sometimes sour so soon as to prevent the proper separation of the cream; in this case we find great benefit from adding to each pan of milk from one pint to a quart of cold water according to the size of the vessel, and the temperature of the weather, and when it is very cold, we add about the same quantity of water boiling hot, at the time of straining the milk. If the quantity of milk is so great that it is not convenient to churn the whole when soured, we set our milk in pans, and when ready for churning, take off about one third of the whole by skimming. When we treat our milk in this way, we prefer not to have the pans more than half full. When we commence churning, if it froths, as it sometimes will when not sufficiently warm, we add boiling water to the cream, until this disposition is checked. It is evident that cream grows warmer by churning, but what is the increase of temperature we have never ascertained. We cannot state precisely the average quantity of milk it will take to make a pound of butter, as experience shows us there is a very great variation in cows as to the quality of the milk, and also in the first or the last of the milk taken from the cow.

Ques. 3d. How many cows do you milk, and what is the average quantity of butter produced by them?

The average number of our cows in 1835 was thirty-five, and the butter sold was 4480 pounds, or about 130 lbs. to a cow. For this in the forepart of November we were offered $22 per cwt. delivered on the spot; but it had been previously contracted at a price somewhat less. (Note A.)

Ques. 4th. Have you ever practiced washing your butter after churning it?

We do this invariably. After we have churned, and the butter is sufficiently gathered, we take the butter out into some suitable vessel, and wash it with pure cold water until the milk is all out of it; then we salt, working in the salt thoroughly; then set it in a cool place for 24 hours, then work it over thoroughly with a ladle, till fit for packing. The washing should be continued no longer than to free the butter from the milk, as longer keeping it in the water has a tendency to injure the flavor of the butter. (Note B.)

Ques. 5th. What kind of salt do you prefer, and what is the average quantity used per pound of butter?

We prefer the Liverpool sack salt to any with which we are acquainted, and use less than an ounce to the pound. When butter comes soft, it requires more than in cool weather, as the salt in such a case will work out the more. In no case however do we use an ounce to the pound of butter. We use no saltpeter in the butter. (Note C.)

Ques. 6th. What is your method of packing and preparing butter for preservation or sale?

We pack our butter in firkins made of white oak heart stuff, well hooped with round walnut hoops, and holding about ninety pounds each. We soak them thoroughly in brine previous to using, and put in a trifle of saltpeter. The same brine with a little renewing will answer for soaking five or six firkins. When the butter has been worked sufficiently, we immediately pack it in a firkin as hard as possible, and the sooner the firkin is filled the better. As soon as the firkin is full, we put on a clean white cloth over the butter, and put on the cloth about three fourths of an inch of common fine salt, packed hard. The firkin is then covered with a thin flat stone, which remains until the butter is taken to market. This method of packing, and keeping in a clean cool cellar, we have found perfectly satisfactory. (Note D.)

Ques. 7th. What cows do you prefer for the dairy?

So far as our experience extends, for butter we should prefer select cows of the native breeds, although on this topic we are able to speak from little more than information, and the appearance of the few specimens of imported stock around us. (Note E.)

Note A.—The increase in the price of dairy produce within two or three years, had we think rather exceeded the ratio advance in other articles, if we except the present extraordinary rates. Cheese of common dairies has advanced from six to ten cents, and butter in country markets from ten to twenty-five cents per pound. Butter in the Boston and New York markets for some weeks has ranged from 27 to 32 cents; and the Philadelphia Gazette of the 24th of Sept. states the price at 40 cents. These high prices will have a tendency to eventually reduce the rates, as many farmers who now raise grain on farms, better adapted to grazing than grain, will turn them to the purpose of the dairy. Present appearances however indicate, that, from the causes mentioned above, the prices will always be such as to afford a handsome remuneration to the producer; and extravagant profits in any one branch of agriculture, in this country where changes can so easily be made, are not to be expected, nor could they on the whole be considered as beneficial.

Note B.—Since receiving the within communication from Mr. Gilbert, we have had the pleasure of a conversation with A. Wilkins, Esq. now a resident of Onondaga county, but formerly of Orange county, and extensively engaged in the making of butter, who fully corroborates the opinions advanced by Mr. Gilbert on the advantage of washing butter, when first churned. In the great butter dairies of Orange, and they are exceeded by none in the United States, there exists scarcely a difference of opinion, on the absolute necessity of washing butter in order to

produce an article of the first quality. Pure, cold, *hard* water, is considered in the Orange dairies a *sine qua non*, and the idea that such washing injures the flavor of butter, as has been maintained by some, is considered by them as justly ridiculous. In the Orange dairies, the practice of souring the milk is universally practiced; and in the language of Mr. Wilkins, "milk should in all cases become sour, and if convenient, thick, before churning."

Note C.—We are convinced that much of the excellence of butter is depending on the quality of the salt used. In west New York, most of the butter is salted with the common Onondaga salt made by boiling, and which, though sufficiently pure for all ordinary purposes, is not entirely free from substances that are improper where perfect purity is required. It is besides too coarse in the grain, to be adapted for salting butter; for this purpose the finer the salt is the better, and it is this which renders the Liverpool sack salt preferable to ours. There can be no doubt that the Onondaga salt made by evaporation, and ground fine, any quantity of which may readily be obtained at Syracuse, and we presume in most of our villages, is fully equal for making butter or cheese, to the best imported salts, and we trust its use will soon become general. It may be remarked, that the quantity of salt used by Mr. Gilbert is not so great as by most dealers in the article, or has been recommended by foreign writers on the subject of making butter.

Note D.—The method of packing preferred by Mr. Gilbert, and in which he has been very successful, differs mostly from the ordinary practice, in covering the butter in the firkin, with the cloth and the fine closely packed salt, instead of brine. As the great object is to keep the butter cool and exclude the air, either course, if well conducted, will be sufficient; but we think the chance would be in favor of the salt, especially if aided by the stone, a most efficient agent in reducing the temperature, and for that purpose far preferable to the head of the firkin, or a piece of board. The heart of the oak is undoubtedly one of the best *unprepared* woods that can be used for firkins; but as all such woods contain more or less of the pyrolignic acid, which has a pernicious effect as far as it extends in decomposing the salt of the butter and imparting a disagreeable flavor, it is evident that the process of boiling the staves for a few hours by which the acid would be extracted, would be a decided improvement in their manufacture.

Note E.—Mr. Gilbert admits that his acquaintance with the improved breeds of cattle is very limited, and possibly those that have fallen under his notice were not the kinds that produce the best milkers. He is not alone however in his opinion that cows may be selected from our native breeds, preferable as milkers, to a large majority of those imported. From our information and observation, it would seem that the best and deepest milkers of what is called our native breeds, are tinged more or less with imported blood, principally the Devon, which has been more diffused through the country than any other. Certainly the best cows for milking which have fallen under our notice, have been of this class, as was demonstrated by their fine skins and their rich red color. A correspondent of the Farmer who lived near Philadelphia, in a late number, speaks of his dairy, which is somewhat select and extensive, as not averaging more than 100 lbs. per cow. This he has ascertained from a long series of recorded results. Mr. Gilbert's cows, which were not select, averaged 130 pounds; and other instances have been given that reached from 160 to 190 lbs. in the season. A friend of ours the last season, from a small dairy of six cows, sold 11 cwt. of cheese, and 600 lbs. of butter, besides an ample supply for the family. Few are aware of the difference which exists in cows in the richness of the milk, and consequently in the amount of butter they will produce; hence while some will reach 200 pounds in a season, or ten months, others will scarcely reach one half of that sum. Of the few cows we milked the last season, we found from actual and careful experiment, that while some would make their pound a day or more for a week, there were others which did not average more thad eight or ten ounces per day for the same time. The profits of making butter from the milk of a dairy, will therefore mainly depend on the goodness of the cows employed, and this point, while it is entirely overlooked by the great mass of dairymen, may easily be settled by actual and decisive experiment.

W. G.

The Grasses and Pastures.

In all countries, where vegetation does not continue through the winter, in which the rising of stock is an important business, this subject is one of permanent interest. Every species of stock derive the bulk of their subsistence from grass or herbs, either green or dry; of course, the best means of making pastures and of preserving them, of making mowing grounds, of curing hay, &c. &c., deserve a conspicuous place in a work of this character.

The subject divides itself into several heads, which we shall treat of separately—and first, of lands whose grass is cut and made into hay. Of this kind of lands there are two kinds, those on which the grass grows naturally, and those where it is cultivated by sowing or otherwise, like any other plant. In this country, such lands are not very common or important, except in those parts of it where the prairies abound. These lands are covered with a wild grass, which is very valuable as pasture for horned cattle and horses.

In this country, every species of grass land where the crop is mowed for hay is called meadow. In England, the term is applied only to those low wet lands, which are incapable of any cultivation, except for grass crops. There are several kinds of these, viz: river meadow, upland meadow, and the salt meadow.

The river meadow is situated usually in the bottom of a valley, along the borders of streams of considerable magnitude, and is usually of great value. Its location exposes it to frequent inundations; but this, if it be not out of season, does no hurt, but on the contrary is very fertilizing. Of course the vegetable soil is usually a rich alluvion, deposited by the inundations. Not unfrequently its surface is so even, or the soil so impregnated by springs, as to injure the grass very materially. Where this is the case, much good can be done by skilful ditching, and removing those plants, such as rushes, flags, bushes, &c., which are apt to spring up in very wet grounds. Such lands are never fit for pasture. The soil in the season for pasturing, is always so soft, that the feet of the cattle poach it up and destroy the grass. Wherever meadows of this kind are exposed to inundation, during the season of vegetation, care should be taken to protect them by an artificial embankment, or *levee*. Manure is never wanted upon meadows of this kind. Nor as a general rule, can any of the various kinds of grasses be cultivated in them by sowing or otherwise, unless the soil be dry enough to enable the farmer to plough it and put in other crops. The prairies of the West are sometimes of this kind of meadow. But usually the prairies are susceptible of arable cultivation, and the grass upon them owes its permanency to other causes than the moisture of the soil. A very simple method has been devised by a western farmer, for putting different kinds of grass seeds into the prairies without the trouble of breaking up the sod and sowing the seed in the usual way. We have been informed by D. Gano, Esq., that a friend of his had covered a tract of about eighty acres, with a very fine crop of herd's grass in the following manner, at a trifling expense.

He stacked a large crop of herd's grass hay upon the prairie or near it, and in the winter fed it out upon the land, taking care that the hay should be eaten by the cattle on every part of the prairie. In one winter this was accomplished. In the following summer, a splendid crop of herd's grass came up all over the prairie, and has since continued to come up. The seeds of the grass were shaken out by the cattle while feeding, and gradually found their way into the ground. A little attention on the part of farmers might in this way turn their prairies into the finest of mowing land. The upland meadow is a species of natural meadow, which is not exposed to inundation by the overflowing of rivers, but owes the wetness of its soil to some other causes, such as springs and the wash of hills. In some cases, the upland meadow can be drained by ditching, so as to make it arable, but where this is impossible, it must be kept in grass or it will be unprofitable.

The grasses which spring up naturally in such lands are usually perennial plants, whose roots do not penetrate deep. On that account, some kinds of manures are of great benefit to them. Top dressings of astringent manures, are perhaps the best. Rolling them occasionally to harden their surface, and to break down mole and ant hills, is of great importance. When it happens from any cause that the grass is killed, moss is apt to spring up. This can be removed by a dressing of lime and draining, if stagnant water has killed the grass.

The constant cultivatian of these lands with the same crop, would induce the opinion, on general principles, that the soil would gradually degenerate. This, however, is not the case; on the contrary, it is said, that by the decomposition of the roots and other vegetable matter, the soil improves every year.

There can be no doubt, but that the grass of the upland meadow might be changed from a natural kind to better, in the same manner as we have said that the wild grass of the prairie is improved, as above related.

In manuring meadows of this kind, much regard is to be had to the season, the sort, the quality, and the frequency of the application. Many farmers think that any season, when the land is hard enough to bear a loaded cart, is the best. Doubtless much regard should be paid to this circumstance. But, it is said, the best time on the whole is in the last of October, or in February and March, when the ground is frozen. Almost any kind of manure is valuable for this kind of grass land, care being taken to have it free from stones. Many farmers differ as to what is the most economical quantity to be put on. "On the average," says Dickson, "from four to six loads per acre, is about the safest."

The mode of making hay and securing it from the weather, are matters so simple and so much within every farmer's observation, that no particular description is needed here.

Grass should be cut early in the morning, while the dew is on it, if it be convenient. The curing occupies from two to three days. In stirring it, it should be observed that the wind cures it much more than the sun. Hence it ought to be thrown into the air as often as possible.

The waste of hay in weight, in drying, is about

three parts in four. It also dries much in the stack or mow. Of course, buyers and sellers of new hay should have regard to this fact.

When hay has not been sufficiently cured, a few quarts of salt mingled with every ton, aid it very much, and make it more palatable to cattle.

On many meadows, two and sometimes three crops are taken. The two last, however, are very inferior to the first. It is thought not to be good economy, to cut more than one crop usually, unless hay be very valuable. The soil is injured by the second and third crops, more than the rouen is worth. It is better economy to reserve the second growth for fall pasture. Care should be taken, however, never to put cattle on to meadow lands, when the ground is so soft that their hoofs sink through the turf.

Many farmers practice a rotation of pasturing and mowing with their grass lands. This practice has many advantages. The expense of manuring is saved; but it is believed, as a general rule, that the land is much more improved where it is constantly kept open, without pasture, and manured as usual, by spreading on the land. Loudon says, that grass lands will gradually degenerate, under an alternate system of mowing and pasturing. On this subject, every farmer must, more or less, judge for himself, according to his situation and circumstances. It will be very convenient occasionally to turn mowing into pasture, and *vice versa;* but care should be taken that this be not done too often, nor continued too long.

Pastures.—The wide ranges over which cattle roam in the West, render this department of his farm a matter of little solicitude to the western farmer. Nature has furnished us with ample pasturage grounds, without requiring of us much cultivation to improve them. In the "far West," the prairie furnishes a bountiful supply of summer food for the grazier's stock. For the present there is not much need of the aid of art to improve or extend. But the time will come when the subject will become important, and we therefore devote a little space to it.

The grasses, which are usually found in pastures, are those which grow spontaneously; of course, the cultivation of such pastures is very simple. They occasionally need manure; but where the grass is well cropt, the cattle usually leave manure enough on the land to keep it in proper tilth. This, however, should be well spread, and broken to pieces in the spring of the year. Hilly lands, with their soils, are mostly devoted to pasture in countries where economy requires that land should be properly laid out into all the departments of a complete farm. Such lands admit of no othar cultivation, and therefore remain permanently under this. The grass in such pastures is usually short and sweet, and is very palatable to sheep and milch cows.

Pasture lands which have long been cropt by cattle, semetimes throw up a grass moss on the drier parts, which kills the grass. This can be frequently removed by a dressing of compost, or chip manure, or other rich and astringent matters. If these fail, the land should be ploughed and put under tillage.

Bushes, bogs and weeds, should be removed with care, wherever the profit will pay for the labor, and also ant hills; and indeed, so much care should be laid out upon them, as will best keep them covered with fresh healthy grass.

No particular rules can be laid down, with regard to the best times for putting on and taking off cattle. In this matter every farmer should decide according to the situation of his pastures. In no case should he turn his cattle in, while the ground is so soft as to be easily poached. Nor in any case should pastures be kept closed till the herbage has turned to seed. The grass is most palatable when it contains the greatest quantity of juice, and this is the case when it is in the bud. Rich pastures, that is, those where the feed is so abundant as to be very readily obtained, such as fine clover fields, should be avoided for lean cattle, lest they be hoven. Such lands, if pastured at all, should be reserved for fat cattle. Sheep especially, should not be permitted to feed on such pastures. They are very sure to generate the rot.

It is the opinion of many farmers, that there is much economy in feeding different kinds of stock on the same grounds, at the same time. In such cases, the advantage is,that different species, preferring different kinds of herbs, will be more sure to crop all the nutriment which the land affords. Such a practice, however, is liable to many serious objections. The large animals will drive away the smaller ones from the good grounds; and will also injure their food by staling upon it. Horses, mares with foal, and cows with calf, would be exposed to injury from the other cattle. It seems to us to be a much better practice,to put on the different kinds of stock separately,and to keep them on but a short time, and putting another on as the first goes off. In this manner, the disadvantages of promiscuous feeding are avoided, and most of its advantages secured.

Small pastures are more profitable than large ones. The herbage is cropt more uniformly,and after the stock is moved off it has time to recruit. In the western country, the great expense of making fences, and the cheapness of land, makes this a matter of no great consequence at present.

For sheep, it is said, large pastures are better than small ones. In the latter they are apt to become restless, and will improve the first opportunity to escape. An abundance of wholesome water and of shade, is indispensable to every enclosed pasture. Where there are running streams or perennial springs, if the cattle can have access to them, no attention is necessary. In many parts of the western country, however, water at certain seasons of the year is very scarce, and many farmers have to drive their stock several miles to water. Digging wells at the bottom of hills, or making artificial ponds, is the only way to avoid this difficulty. The latter, if skilfully made, are on the whole safest and best. The well water of many parts of the country is strongly impregnated with lime or other minerals, making it not only unpleasant, but unhealthy to cattle. In Kentucky, artificial ponds are made in this way: Select a spot between two or more hills, and carefully remove all the turf and other vegetable matter, and make an embankment across from one hill to the other. Make a sluice gate in some convenient spot, to draw off the water when necessary. In a wet season, after the turf, &c. have been removed, a drove of hogs is suffered to root up and poach the loam into fine mortar,which forms, when it has settled, an impervious bottom for the pond. When this is effectually done, the sluice-gate is closed, and the water which flows from the hills and ravines is collected. As there is no vegetable matter in it, a few showers will keep it free from stagnant poisons, and a plentiful supply will be preserved for use in the driest seasons.

It is very often important to break up old pasture lands, and put in different crops. Most pastures which will admit of this, are much benefitted by an occasional judicious rotation. What the rotation should be, must depend upon the nature of the soil and a variety of other circumstances.—*Western Agriculturist.*

Farmer's Evenings.

In one respect the farmer has the advantage of almost all other classes of the laboring community—his evenings he has to himself.—While the mechanic has to labor from morning till 9 o'clock in the evening, the farmer's day of labor commences with the rising and closes with the setting sun. Although the *industrious* farmer finds many little jobs of work to which he very economically appropriates his evening leisure, yet the greater part of his long winter evenings he can appropriate to his amusement and instruction. In no place do we see more cheerful countenances than around the high blazing fire upon the farmer's hearth. There, at the merry apple-pearing,or at the neighborhood collection, or even in the family circle alone, do we find social happiness in its purest simplicity. What an opportunity this for the acquisition of knowledge! What farmer who improves these opportunities can but be intelligent? And what instruction so interesting as that which gives him a knowledge of his own particular employment? Here we would suggest the importance of every farmer having a supply of agricultural books and papers. It seems to us that no one can but be sensible of their utility. If this should be a suggestion of self-interest, which we do not deny, still we believe it coincides perfectly with the interest of the farmer. We will notenlarge on this subject, as we apprehend it would not convey that knowledge which we recommend. We will barely say, that we expect our subscribers will increase as the evenings lengthen.—*American Silk Grower.*

On the Repotting and Management of Chinese Roses—by J. W. Russell.

As this is the season for repotting Chinese and all tender roses, I herewith send you a few brief remarks on the method of performing this kind of work.

For Chinese and tender roses a quantity of good fresh earth should be procured; preference should be given to that taken from an upland pasture field; the sod, with about four or five inches of earth adhering to it, is the very *best* part of the *soil.* If this has been procured three months before wanted for use, and turned over once or twice, breaking the whole and mixing the turf well with the soil, so much the better; however, if the earth is to be obtained immediately when wanted, take a sharp spade and pare off about an inch of the green *sward,* and take the under soil to the depth proposed, observing to break it pretty fine with the spade or trowel, but by no means to pass it through a *riddle,* for, by so doing, the most nutritive part of it is thrown away. When this is done, add about one half old *hot bed* manure, or, if this is not at hand, use any other kind of stable manure that is well decomposed, with a portion of sand, and mix the whole well together, this thoroughly done, the compost is ready for use.

Supposing the plant to be repotted is to be removed into a pot a size or two larger; in order to take the plant out of the pot with the ball entire, turn it *upside down,* and by giving the rim of it two or three gentle taps on the potting bench, tho plant, with the ball of earth and roots, will, generally, immediately leave it; then trim off all the matted and moldy fibers of the roots, which spread about the side and bottom of the ball, and with a small sharp pointed stick, scrape away very carefully a part of the old soil all round; this done, put in a few potsherds at the bottom of the new pot for drainage, and having first put a little of the coarsest of the compost on this, place the plant in, filling up all round the ball to within about a half an inch of the top, observing to cover over the surface of the old ball about an inch of the new compost. A thin piece of stick may be used with good effect, to work down the soil at the *sides* of the pot; then by giving the bottom of the pot two or three thumps, on the potting bench, and a gentle watering afterwards, the operation is completely finished.

A similar compost is equally good for geraniums, only making use of half the quantity of manure specified for the roses. The repotting and trimming of the roots, &c. is the same. It is also as good a compost as any that I have ever yet tried for orange and lemon trees.

Yours, &c. J. W. Russell.

Mount Auburn, Cambridge, Sept. 13, 1836.

Cultivation of the Fig.

The lovers of this excellent fruit will be gratified to learn that it may be cultivated in our climate with little expense and labor. During a late visit to the garden of Eliphalet Averill, Esq. of this city, we were presented with a fig, plucked directly from the tree, and of a flavor the most delicious. Mr. A. informed us that for ten years he had been experimenting on the cultivation of the fig, and that he had finally succeeded in preserving the tree and bringing the fruit to perfection. He also kindly gave us a statement of his

method, which we lay before our readers, in the hope that at least some of them will be induced to try the experiment, as we have no doubt of its complete success. The fig is propagated by means of layers and cuttings—if the latter are used they should be at least one foot long.

The method of Mr. A. is as follows: He lays down the branches in June, which form roots and grow luxuriantly. Immediately after the leaves fall off in autumn, and before hard frosts destroy their vitality, he lays them down and covers with earth to the depth of at least a foot. In order that a part of the roots may retain their original position in the earth, and be ready to furnish nourishment early the ensuing spring, he loosens the roots on one side of the tree, and leaves those on the other side undisturbed—taking care that those loosened are not mutilated or otherwise injured. He then bends the branches over those roots that are left in the ground, fastens them with pegs, and covers both roots and branches with mellow earth to the depth above stated. In this condition he leaves them till the middle of May, or first of June, according to the forwardness or backwardness of the season, and then uncovers them—sets them upright, and supports them with props to keep them in a right position. By repeating this process every winter, he has succeeded in preserving his trees till they have attained a good size, and produce fruit in perfection and abundance. The fig tree in tropical climates has a constant succession of crops. In Georgia it yields three crops, and in New England, in good seasons, it will produce two. When the figs are half, or two thirds grown, they cease growing and present every appearance of not coming to maturity. To facilitate their ripening, a drop of olive oil is put upon their blossom ends, which in eight or ten days produces an extraordinary effect. In this time they attain their full size, assume a liver color, and in delicacy of flavor as much exceed preserved figs as fresh peaches do those that are dried in the common manner.—*Silk Cul.*

From the Zanesville, Ohio, Gazette.

SILK.

We have had occasion more than once to speak of the experiments in silk culture in Muskingum county during the past season, and have exhibited specimens of beautiful silk made by a fellow townsman during the past summer. The following communication, states a further experiment, that of rearing two sets of worms during the same season, an expertment in which Mr. Westbrook was entirely successful. We have visited his nurseries of young mulberry trees, and must pronounce them the handsomest we have seen. We also procured last spring a few plants of the *morus multicaulis*, which have grown finely, and should they not kill down badly this winter, we shall have several hundred cuttings next spring. The great stumbling block in silk culture, the reeling process, has proved to be a small matter when understood.

Mr. Westbrook has left a specimen of his own manufacture of sewing silk with us, which can be seen by calling at his office.

Messrs. Parke & Bennett:—

Last spring I obtained an ounce and a half of the White Mulberry seed, which I sowed on the 11th and 12th of April, on a bed 40 feet long, and 14 broad, in rows twelve inches apart, watering the bed twice or three times a week in dry weather, once a week with soap suds. A part of my seed, say one half came up the last of that month and the first of May, when the dry weather came on. The balance of my seed did not come up until after the long spell of rain about the first of June. By keeping the bed clean and occasionally stirring the ground between the rows, the plants grew rapidly and those which came up before the drought perhaps the number of three or four thousand have attained to the average height of four feet and some to the height of four feet ten inches, but were I to sow again, I should occupy at least twice as much ground.

I also obtained of Mr. C. G. Wilson, ten trees of the Chinese Mulberry of last year's growth, about a foot in height, which were brought from Boston, and did not arrive here until about the first of June at which time they were transplanted, but had no appearance of vegetating for about ten days, when the buds next the ground began to develope themselves, the top of the stock down to those buds dried up.—By occasional watering in dry weather, and stirring the ground about the roots, those buds, together with several sprouts or suckers, which sprang up from the roots some at the distance of two or three inches from the main stalk, grew rapidly and have attained to the average height of five feet ten inches, and one measuring six feet six inches, clothed with the most beautiful foliage I ever saw, of a deep green, and of a beautiful glossy silky appearance, some of the leaves measuring 14¼ inches in length and 10 in breadth. I intend if I can preserve these ten trees entire the coming winter, to increase my number to one thousand from cuttings.

I also obtained a few silk worm eggs last spring, which came out on the 12th and 13th of May, and fed them on the native Mulberry as a school of experiment, they grew well and wound their cocoons in 35 days from the date of their hatching. The moth came out in a few days and laid their eggs and as it has been shown that two crops in a year have been raised in the United States, and to use a trite adage, "what has been done, may be done again," in order to test the experiment satisfactorily, I allowed a second crop to hatch: thay came out on 13th of July, and were fed from the limbs which I cut from my seedling trees, until the fourth age, and the balance of the season on the native mulberry. The worms grew as rapidly and appeared equally as healthy and vigorous as the former crop, and came to maturity five days sooner and commenced spinning their cocoons in thirty days from the date of their hatching and the cocoons were about the same weight.

The foregoing exposition will prove beyond the shadow of a doubt, the practicability of rearing two crops of worms in a season in our climate, and also the adaptation of our climate and soil to the successful culture of the mulberry, for in turning over the pages of horticulture, there is no where recorded, so luxuriant a growth as in the above instance. A. P. WESTBROOK.

October 15th, 1836.

Grinding Old Garments into New.

Sir George Head, in his *tour through the Manufacturing Districts*, gives the following account of a new trade carried on at Dewsbury; literally tearing in pieces fusty old rags, collected from Scotland, Ireland and the Continent, by a machine called the "devil," till a substance very like the original wool is produced. This, by the help of a small addition of new wool, is respun and manufactured into sundry useful articles, such as the wadding which Messrs. Stulze & Co., introduce within the collars of their fasfiionable coats, and various descriptions of drugget, horse-sheeting, &c. The trade or occupation of the owner, his life and habits, or the filthiness and antiquity of the garment itself, oppose no bar to this wonderful process of regeneration, whether from the scarecrow or the gibbet, it makes no difference; so that, according to the transmutation of human affairs, no doubt it frequently does happen, without figure of speech or metaphor, that the identical garment to-day exposed to the sun and rain in a Kentish cherry orchard, or saturated with tobacco smoke on the "back of a beggar in a pot house," is doomed in its turn, "perfusus liquidis odoribus," to grace the swelling collar, or add dignified proportion to the chest of the dandy —*London Paper.*

Osage Orange.

The Osage Orange is a native of Arkansas and Missouri. where it rises in elegant proportion to the height of 60 feet. The tree is deciduous and hardy, as it has endured the rigors of the last seven winters near Boston, and is one of the most ornamental of all our native trees. The leaves are oval, lanceolate, of a beautiful shining green, and bear striking resemblance to those of the orange, and is armed with long sharp spines. The trees are diæcious, or some male and some female, therefore requiring more than one tree for the production of fruit; but these however can be distinguished when young. The fruit is beautiful but not eatable, of the size of a large orange, of a golden color, and the trees when laden with the fruit are splendid. The wood produces a fine yellow dye. It is valuable for furniture, as it receives the finest polish. It is remarkably tough, strong and elastic, and is therefore called Bow Wood, being preferred by the Indians to all other woods for bows. It is also supposed to be the most durable timber in the world, and for ship building is esteemed preferable to live oak.

Even the leaves so beautiful, may, it appears, be converted to very important uses, since according to a memoir lately presented to the French Institute, they are valuable as food for silk worms.

On the best authority, I am assured, that the trees of the Osage Orange, when set at the distance of fifteen inches asunder, makes the most beautiful as well as the strongest hedge fence in the world, through which neither men nor animals can pass.—*Hart. Silk. Cult.*

Liberality.

The editor of the Mechanic's Messenger and Working Men's Advocate, a valuable monthly periodical published at Maryville, Tennessee, generously offers to furnish gratuitously each society consisting of not less than twenty five members, that may be organized in the south western States, on the principles of mutual improvement, for the promotion of the arts or of agriculture, with a complete volume of the work. He also offers a volume as a premium for each of the following objects. To each individual who may have under successful cultivation 2000 White or Chinese mulberry trees, with a view to the production of silk. To each individual who may cultivate one acre of beets for the purpose of manufacturing beet root sugar. For successfully cultivating any vegetable not heretofore acclimated. For the greatest amount of wheat produced on one acre of land the last season. For the best essay on tanning. For the best essay on the preservation of timber. For the best essay on chemistry applied to the arts. For the best essay on chemistry applied to agriculture. For each geological description of any portion of the southwestern country that may be thought worthy of publication.—*Silk Cult.*

Patent Silk Loom.

Since yankee ingenuity has discovered that silk fabrics can be woven in power looms, a very important improvement has been made and patented in England, in the application of steam power, and by dispensing entirely with weights. A number of these looms are now in operation in Manchester, and from the success which has attended the trial of them, it would appear that they are likely to supercede the imperfect machines now in use—as a weaver can turn out double the quantity, and at the same time produce a superior article.—*Silk Cult.*

Down Easters Outdone.—John H. Colyer, of Newtown, has a bunch of onions containing one hundred, from seed sown this year, weighing 120 pounds. Also thirty bushels averaging one pound each, the whole raised on the farm of Benjamin Denton, Esq. of the former place.—*Long Island Star.*

Imported Bull for Sale.

TO be sold, a full blooded Bull of the Devonshire breed, imported in June last by the owner; he is admitted by all who have examined him, to be a very superior animal, and is from the stock of F. Quarterly Esq., who is celebrated for his breed of Devonshire cattle. Apply personally, (or if by letter post paid.) to Mr. J. COWLER, Cardoff, town of La Fayette, near Syracuse, county of Onondaga, state of New York. oct 29–6t

For the Genesee Farmer.

Lines Founded on a Fact.

I saw thee on thy mother's knee,
A smiling, prattling boy;
With curling locks and sparkling eye,
Thou wert thy father's joy.

I saw thee with thy book in hand,
And satchel by thy side;
Of all his numerous pupil band,
Thou wert thy teacher's pride.

I saw thee in the College hall
The highest honors gain,
Where President, Professors, *all*
Were proud to speak thy name.

I saw thee on the road to fame
Pass all thy compeers by,
Its distant goal the only aim
That caught thy eagle eye.

I heard thee plead the widow's cause,
That made her sing for joy,
And from slavery's cruel jaws
Release a negro boy.

I saw thee in thy "pride of place,"
"Struck by a mousing owl,"
And oh! the damning deep disgrace,
To die as dies a fool!

Thy hands were never, never bound,
Thy feet were not in chains;
Thou never heard the slave whip sound,
Nor ever felt its pains.

And yet thou wast a very slave,
Unscathed by Afric's sun,
And did descend so to thy grave,
A slave to—what?—to *Rum!*

Lockport, Sept. 1836. W*****.

Considerations for Young Men.

A taste for useful reading is an effectual preservation from vice. Next to the fear of God implanted in the heart, nothing is a better safeguard to character than the love of good books. They are hand-maids of virtue and religion. They quicken our sense of duty, unfold our responsibilities, strengthen our principles, confirm our habits, inspire in us the love of what is right and useful, and teach us to look with disgust upon what is low, groveling and vicious. It is with good books as it is with prayer, the use of them will either make us leave off sinning or leave off reading. And no man who has fondness for this exercise is in much danger of becoming vicious. He is secured from a thousand temptations to which he would otherwise be exposed. He has no inducement to squander away his time in vain amusements, in the haunts of dissipation, or in the corrupting intercourse of bad company. He has higher and nobler sources of enjoyment to which he can have access. He can be happy alone; and is indeed never less alone than when alone. Then he enjoys the sweetest, the purest, the most improving society, the society of the wise, the great and the good; and while he holds delightful converse with these his companions and friends, he grows into a likeness to them, and learns to look down, as from an eminence of purity and light, upon the low-born pleasures of the dissipated and the profligate.

The high value of mental cultivation is another weighty motive for giving attention to reading. What is it that mainly distinguishes a man from a brute? Knowledge. What forms the principal difference between men, as they appear in the same society? Knowledge. What raised Franklin from the humble station of Printer's Boy to the first honors of the country? Knowledge. What took Sherman from his shoemaker's bench, gave him a seat in Congress, and there made his voice to be heard among the wisest and best of his compeers? Knowledge. What raised Simpson from a weaver's loom to a place among the first of mathematicians; and Herschel from being a poor fifer's boy in the army, to a station among the first of astronomers? Knowledge. Knowledge is power. It is the Philosopher's stone—the true alchemy, that turns every thing into gold. It is the sceptre that gives us our dominion over nature; the key that unlocks the store-house of creation and opens us the treasures of the universe.

And suppose you that her last victory has been won, the utmost limits of her dominion reached? Nay, my friend, she has but commenced her march. Her most splendid triumphs are yet future. What new honors she has to bestow on her followers, into what new field of conquest and glory she will lead them, no one can tell. Her voice to all is, to rally around her standard, go forward and aid in her victories, and share in the honors of her achievements. None are excluded from this high privilege. Her rewards are proffered to all, and all, though in different measures, may share in her distinctions, her blessings and hopes.

The circumstances in which you are placed, as the members of a free and intelligent community, demand of you a careful improvement of the means of knowledge you enjoy. The public mind is awake, and society in general is fast rising in the scale of improvement. At the same time the means of knowledge are more abundant. They exist every where, and in the richest variety. Nor were stronger inducements ever held out to engage all classes of people in the diligent use of these means. Useful talents of every kind are in great demand. The field of enterprise is widening and spreading around you. The road to wealth, to honor, to usefulness and happiness is open to all; and all who will may enter upon it with the almost certain prospect of success. In this free community there are no privileged orders. Every man finds his level. If he has talents, he will be known and estimated, and rise in the respect and confidence of society.—*Hawe's Lectures.*

Destroy Wasps.—"Hang up glass phials filled with honey or sugar water, in different parts among the wall, espalier and standard fruit trees in order to destroy wasps, ants, &c. which would otherwise infest and devour the choice fruits; by the sweetness of the waters they are tempted into the phials, and frequently drowned; but these should be hung before the fruit begins to ripen, for then the insect would be much sooner tempted to the water, than after having tasted the fruit; where a sufficient number of glasses are placed in time, and properly attended to, and the water occasionally renewed, very little damage is done by these insects.—*M'Mahon.*

Green Corn and Snow Balls—On Wednesday morning we noticed in a market wagon, containing corn in the milk, the strange sight of a Snow Ball between two and three inches in diameter. It was formed from the frost which on that morning was visible in every direction around us, blasting, we fear, the small hopes many of the farmers had cherished of their corn crop.—*Portsmouth, Aug.* 1836.

Sheep.

SAXONY and MERINO BUCKS for sale. Inquire at the City Mills, or at Brighton of Porter Taylor.

Rochester, Oct. 10, 1836. oct 15-f3t

25,000 Mulberry Trees.

WE have 25,000 White Italian Mulberry Trees 3 years old, which we will sell at $25 per 1000, or $3 per 100. If 5000 or upwards are taken, a deduction will be made.

REYNOLDS & BATEHAM,
sept 3 Rochester Seed Store.

20,000 GENUINE Morus multicaulis, or Chinese Mulberrry, of one and two years' growth, by the dozen, hundred or thousand.

Also—30,000 White Mulberry, of one and two years' growth—for sale by ASA ROWE.

Sale of Sheep.

THE subscriber hereby informs the public that his annual sale of BUCKS will commence on the 25th day of Oct. inst. and after continued, at his residence, half way between Mount Morris and Danville.

His flock of Sheep, for purity of blood and quality of wool, has now become so generally known to the principal breeders of sheep in this part of the country, as to preclude the necessity of description and recommendation. They consist of pure blood

Saxony and genuine Merino.

The clip of his entire flock the two preceding shearings, sold for 70 cents per lb. He confidently tenders the assurance of a choice of Bucks, equaling any preceding offer or selection. In addition to which he will offer for sale, in lots to accommodate purchasers, the surplus of his flock, over his estimate of his fodder for the ensuing winter, consisting of Ewes and Lambs to the amount of 200.

FRANCIS MOORE.

Sparta, October 5, 1836.

Chinese Mulberry Trees and Cuttings.

THE best varieties of Chinese Mulberry, (Morus Multicaulis) from *France, Italy* and *China*, of *one, two* and *three* years' growth, may be had in large or small quantities, from S. Whitmarsh's extensive collection, and forwarded to any part of the United States, according to order, with directions for propagation.

It is confidently believed, that the present mode of culture adopted by us, will prove a certain and secure protection against the severity of winter, and the best method, by which, to increase the foliage and multiply the number of trees.

All orders directed to the subscriber, will receive immediate and faithful attention.

In behalf of S. Whitmarsh.

DANIEL STEBBINS.

Northampton Sept. 7. sept17-7t*

Monroe Horticultural Garden and Nurseries, Greece, Monroe Co. N. Y.

THIS establishment now comprises over 20 acres, covered compactly with Trees and Plants in the different stages of their growth.

The subscriber offers to the public a choice selection of Fruit Trees, of French, German, English and American varieties, consisting of Apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Apricots, Nectarines, Quinces, Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Grape Vines, Strawberries, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Hardy Roses, Vines, Creepers, Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Bulbous Roots, splendid Pæonies, Double Dahlias, &c. &c.

Also, a large collection of Green House Plants, of choice and select varieties, in good condition.

Orders respectfully solicited. Trees and Plants, when ordered, are carefully selected and faithfully packed, and if desired delivered on the canal one mile from the Nursery, or at Rochester.

Orders for Mr. Rowe's Nursery received by the publisher of this paper.

Catalogues will be sent to every applicant gratis, or may be had by calling at the office of the Genesee Farmer.

ASA ROWE.

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ELECTION NOTICE.—*Sheriff's Office, Monroe County, Rochester, July* 23, 1836.—A general election is to be held in the county of Monroe, on the 7th, 8th and 9th days of November next, at which will be chosen the officers mentioned in the notice from the Secretary of State, of which a copy is annexed. ELIAS POND, Sheriff.

State of New-York, Secretary's Office, Albany, July 15, 1836.

Sir—I hereby give you notice that at the next general election of this state, to be held on the 7th 8th and 9th days of November next, a Governor and Lieutenant Governor are to be elected.

I also give you notice that a Senator is to be chosen in the Eighth Senate District in the place of John Griffin, whose term of office will expire on the last day of December next.

JOHN A. DIX, Secretary of State.

To the Sheriff of the county of Monroe.

N. B.—The Inspectors of Election in the several towns in your county will give notice of the election of a Representative to Congress from the 28th Congressional District, and that 42 Electors of President and Vice President are also to be chosen at the general election aforesaid. They will also give notice of the election of Members of Assembly, and for filling any vacancies in county offices which may exist. july26